

# LOUISVILLE MEDICAL NEWS:

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

J. W. HOLLAND, A.M., M.D.,

H. A. COTTELL, M.D.,

} Editors.

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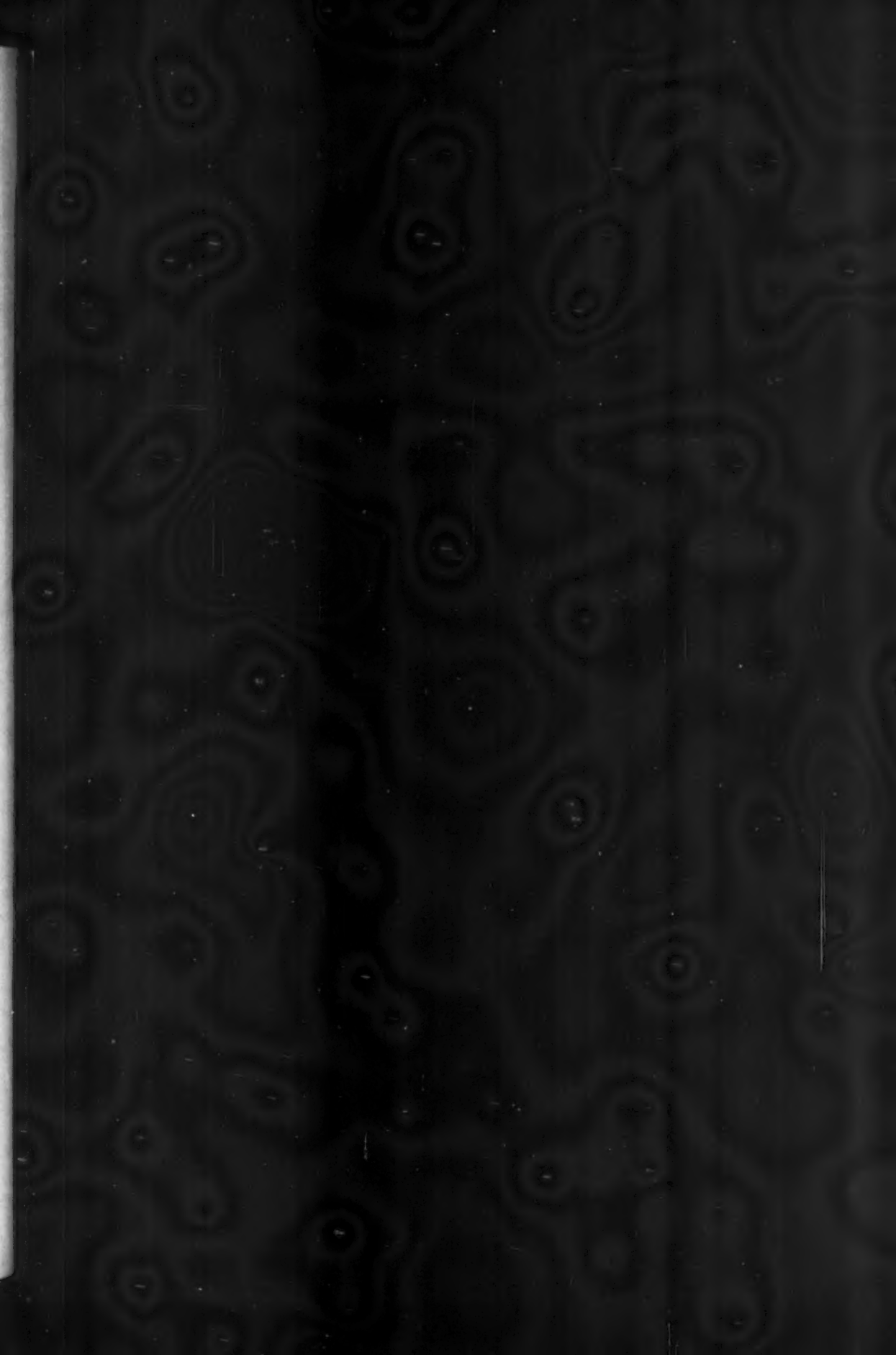
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# LOUISVILLE MEDICAL NEWS.

"*NEC TENUI PENNÂ*."

Vol. XIII.

LOUISVILLE, MARCH 4, 1882.

No. 9.

J. W. HOLLAND, A. M., M. D., . . . . . }  
H. A. COTTELL, M. D., . . . . . } Editors.

## SOCIETY OF THE ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE, MED. DEPT.

A number of the alumni of this institution, consisting of physicians of Louisville and neighboring cities, with the present graduating class (ninety-six in number), met in the college lecture-room, at Eighth and Chestnut streets, on Saturday night, February 25th, and organized an alumni association.

Dr. Coleman Rogers, of Louisville, was elected president, and Dr. E. P. Easley, of New Albany, Ind., secretary and treasurer.

A committee on resolutions and by-laws submitted a suitable report, which was accepted, and the committee granted further time for the framing of a constitution and by-laws.

The evening preceding the Commencement exercises of the Medical Department of the University was fixed upon as the time for the regular annual meeting of the association, and the college-building was named as the place. It was also ordered that a special meeting should be held during the gathering of the Kentucky State Medical Society next April, and a committee was appointed to arrange for this meeting.

It was decided that, to become an active member of the society, the graduate must enroll his name or send it to the secretary for enrollment upon the books, and pay an annual fee of one dollar.

All the graduates present then entered their names in the order of their graduation, the older alumni taking precedence.

VOL. XIII.—No. 9

Drs. D. W. Yandell, E. R. Palmer, W. T. Owen, Coleman Rogers, F. C. Leber, E. W. King, and T. P. Grant were present and made remarks befitting the occasion.

The University was founded in 1837, and has an alumni list of more than three thousand doctors in medicine. With such a number it is possible to form an organization of great influence and power for good in the furtherance of medical education and the advancement of science.

It is particularly requested of each graduate of the University that he will put himself in communication with the secretary—Dr. E. P. Easley, New Albany, Ind.—sending in his name and fee; and that, if possible, he will attend the special meeting in April. Of this further notice will be given.

**DEATH OF DR. FORÉE.**—At his home, on Sunday morning, February 26th, Dr. E. D. Forée died suddenly of angina pectoris, being in his sixty-fifth year.

Since his location among us no physician of Louisville has been more popular with the sick or held more in honor by his colleagues. His death will be mourned by the entire local profession and a host of the laity, who trusted him as a medical counselor and loved him as a friend.

The physicians of Louisville in a body, and the faculties of the Medical Department of the University, the Hospital Medical College, and the Kentucky School of Medicine, each held a meeting on the morning of the 28th of February, and paid beautiful and fitting tribute to his worth as a physician and a man. We hope to publish some of these testimonials in our next issue.



## Original.

DISCOURSE ON THE LIFE AND CHARACTER  
OF DR. RICHARD OSWALD COWLING.

BY DAVID W. YANDELL, M. D.,\*

*Professor of Surgery, University of Louisville.**Ladies and Gentlemen, and Gentlemen Graduates:*

I am here today in behalf of the Trustees and Medical Faculty of the University of Louisville to speak to you of the life and character of the late Dr. Richard Oswald Cowling, personally known to most of you, and known by fame to you all as a leader in surgery and a distinguished teacher in this institution.

Dr. Cowling was born April 8, 1839, near Georgetown, South Carolina. His father, John Valadon Cowling, and his mother, Sarah James, were both of English extraction, the former of old English cavalier stock, the latter a descendant of an officer who distinguished himself at the battle of the Boyne, in the service of King William. The Cowlings settled in Virginia in the sixteenth century, finding their way later to Georgia, where their names appear among the leading commercial men of the cities of Augusta and Savannah.

The Jameses left England in 1733, and settled in South Carolina. The son of the soldier who so gallantly served King William came, in the new world, to oppose King George, conceiving his demands to be unjust and his yoke oppressive. Maj. John James, the grandfather of Sarah James, we find accorded a biography in Ramsey's History of South Carolina, in which he is ranked among the heroes of the American Revolution. The historian records "that in the month of June, 1780, a British captain named Ardesoif arrived at Georgetown and published a proclamation inviting the people to come in and swear allegiance to King George and have protection. Many of the inhabitants of Georgetown submitted. But there remained a portion of that district, stretching from the Santee to the Pedee, containing the whole of the present Williamsburg and part of Marion County, to which the British arms had not penetrated. At this crisis there was a meeting of the people to deliberate on the situation. Major John James, who had heretofore commanded them in the field and represented them in the State Legislature, was selected as the person who should go down to Capt. Ardesoif and learn from him upon what terms they would be allowed to submit. Upon hearing the nature of this mission, Capt. A., surprised that such an embassy should be sent to him, answered that 'their submission must be unconditional.' On the Major suggesting that the people he represented would not submit to such terms, the Captain, irritated at his language, and particularly at the word 'represent,' replied, 'You d—d rebel, if you speak in such language I will immediately order you to be hanged up to the yard-arm.' Major James, perceiving what turn matters were likely to take, and not brooking such harsh language, suddenly seized a chair, brandished it in the face of the Captain (other authorities say he felled him to the floor with it), made his way good through the back door of the house, mounted his horse, and escaped to the country." This circumstance, which

now appears so trivial, gave rise to Marion's Brigade.

When Major James related his adventures at a meeting of the inhabitants of Williamsburg it was unanimously determined they should again take up arms in defense of their country, and not against it. Major James was desired to command them. The organization being effected, a courier was dispatched to General Gates to send them a general officer, and he sent General Francis Marion. In this brigade were Major James, his seven sons, and his brothers. Among the former was Wm. Dobein James, the grandfather of Dr. Cowling, who served with Marion throughout the war, and afterward wrote the most interesting and trustworthy life of his dashing commander. He subsequently became a judge in chancery and occupied an enviable position on the bench. In more recent times Richard Henry Stoddard has told in ballad many of the bold and daring deeds of Gavin James.

When the subject of this sketch was but two years old the family removed to Louisville, where in time Richard came to be the pupil of such teachers as Prof. Noble Butler and Rev. Dr. Chapman. His religious education he received at Christ Church from his beloved and revered pastor, the Rev. Dr. Craik.

In 1858 he entered Trinity College, Hartford, Ct., sophomore class, and bore away its highest honors three years later, being specially noted for his acquirements in the mathematics. Such indeed was his strength in this branch of his studies that while still a sophomore he instructed the more advanced classes. The professor of mathematics, himself of such repute as to be appointed a member of the Nautical Almanac office, which being located at Washington took him much away from his classes, early detected the power of the sophomore and made him an adjunct, to whom he intrusted the instruction of his pupils during his enforced absences at the National Capital.

After his graduation he made a short visit to Europe, traveling much on foot, and reached home in 1862, the war having swept away his remaining means.

He had not yet decided what should be his future calling. He naturally inclined to civil engineering; but while debating the subject he set about winning his bread by accepting an offer to prepare a student living near Louisville for college, which he successfully accomplished. While engaged as tutor a landed estate of several thousand acres, near the home of his pupil, was ordered by court to be divided. The work of survey and division was confided to young Cowling, who, though he had never been in the field, undertook the task. When the surveys were completed Cowling's estimates embraced forty more acres than the plot called for. On being asked by the trustee if he might not be mistaken, and answering "No" the trustee said, "This is very wonderful. In the original grant there was just the number of acres you find, but all subsequent surveys down to yours have made it twenty-five to forty acres less." Cowling's survey was accepted and the estate divided according to his estimate.

He now undertook the study of law and pursued it for a twelvemonth, but finding it less suited to his taste than he expected he relinquished its pursuit. He ascribed this turn in his mind partly to the circumstance that while convalescing from a severe illness a copy of Watson's Practice of Physic fell into his hands. Dr. Cowling is not the first person whose feet were turned in a like direction by the charms

\* A Valedictory Address delivered to the graduating class of the University of Louisville, February 28, 1882.

with which the unrivaled genius of the English baronet invested the study of disease. He often said when speaking of this period of his life that Watson's Practice came to him as a revelation. Before that it had not entered into his mind to conceive the beneficence, the splendors, the glories of the domain of medicine. He read and reread the volume. Many of its finer passages he committed to memory, and in his subsequent career as teacher and writer he quoted no author so frequently as he did Dr. Watson.

In 1864 he entered regularly upon the study of medicine in the office of the late Prof. Geo. W. Bayless, who then occupied the chair of surgery in the University of Louisville. He was a laborious student, who cleared up the ground as he went, mastering without difficulty the more intricate problems of the several subjects which went to make up the regular college curriculum, and finding time to read much in the collateral sciences.

"He was a great reader," said the learned Dr. Pynchon, president of Trinity College, "and his reading covered a wide range. He had a thirst for knowledge and read intelligently, and a higher class of books than those generally read by students."

His first course of lectures was taken at the University of Louisville. For his second he entered the Jefferson School, of Philadelphia, from which institution he was graduated. He was led to this step partly by some changes which had been made in the faculty of the University, not less than by his love and admiration of Prof. Gross.

On his return home from Philadelphia he offered himself as a candidate for practice.

The following autumn he was made demonstrator of anatomy in the University, and was also given the *ad eundem* degree of that institution. He loved the study of anatomy and applied himself to teaching it with his accustomed earnestness. He laid in the anatomical rooms the corner-stone of his future growth and development as a surgeon. He was beloved by the classes whom he taught.

A few years later, Prof. Bayless being admonished by failing health that he must slacken his labors, asked that Dr. Cowling be made adjunct to the chair of surgery. The faculty gladly assented, and the trustees unanimously elected him to the position. The adjunctship proved to carry with it almost the full labors of the professorship, for what was hoped at first to be but temporary disability of Prof. Bayless was the beginning of the end, and before the opening of another session death had made vacant his chair. His pupil and associate, Dr. Cowling, delivered an address on his life and character, in which he fittingly said that in the removal of Dr. Bayless the University, the community, and science had sustained an irreparable loss.

Such had been the manner in which Dr. Cowling discharged the onerous duties which had thus suddenly fallen to him, that the chair of surgery was recast, and he was appointed to teach surgical pathology and operative surgery. In 1879 the title of the chair was changed at his request to that of the "Science and Art of Surgery," and this position he held at the time of his death.

As a lecturer Dr. Cowling was fluent, earnest, forcible. His manner to students, as indeed to all men, was kindly, dignified, and gentle. His teachings were broad and comprehensive. He winnowed his subjects carefully, separating the grain from the chaff with the utmost conscientiousness.

His elevation to the professorship directed the at-

tention of the public to his claims as a practitioner of surgery, and his business acquired a new impetus. Almost, however, from the very day he returned to Louisville and opened an office he was recognized as one of uncommon strength in his calling. "There was that about his bearing and appearance," to use the words of the president of Trinity College, "that stamped him as a very superior person." He was indebted to his professional brethren, who sought his counsel, for much of his earlier business. There can be no surer test of a man's merit than this.

From 1868 to 1876 the medical atmosphere of Louisville had been surcharged by the enemies of the University with a hatred and malignity which practically destroyed the comfort of every honorable physician in the community. The feeling spread itself to other, even distant parts of the State. Irregular and most reprehensible practices were indulged in by rival schools at her very doors, that they might swell the size of their classes and increase the incomes of their teachers. The country was flooded with a species of medical nondescript. The profession was debased. Legitimate medicine was endangered.

At this juncture Dr. Cowling felt himself stirred to enter the field of journalism, that he might the more readily battle for the right and assail the wrong. He gave the subject much and anxious thought. He conferred with his friends both in and out of the profession, and he then took what proved to be the most important step in his life—the founding of the LOUISVILLE MEDICAL NEWS. He associated with him in the enterprise Dr. W. H. Galt, a gentleman of wit, courage, and ready pen, who continued on the editorial staff for two years, being succeeded by Prof. L. P. Vandell. This gentleman withdrew in 1880.\* For publishers he found in the well-known house of John P. Morton & Co. those who, applauding his spirit, gave the prestige of their imprint to his novel venture.

On New Year's day, 1876, the first issue of the NEWS appeared. It was a weekly journal of sixteen pages. Its motto, "*Nec tenui pennâ*," was chosen from Thackeray, one of Dr. Cowling's favorite authors. He threw his entire strength into his new work. It became a part of his daily life. Scarcely a number appeared which did not contain marks of his quality. Logical, humorous, witty, and running over with good feeling, the NEWS at once took rank among the very ablest publications in medical periodical literature. In the salutatory the editor emphasized his intention to render "evenhanded justice" and "be charitable." How faithfully he lived up to this platform the readers of the NEWS will bear abundant testimony.

But while he possessed a gentleness which was well nigh womanly, the blood of his martial ancestors leaped in Cowling's veins at the "bare thought of meanness and of fraud." Hence his purpose to strike at the enormities which now had been so long perpetrated by the common enemies of the University and of legitimate medical teaching, not only here but elsewhere. And he struck at once.

With the opening number of the NEWS he threw a well-equipped column across the path of the veteran foe who, hitherto unchecked, had ruthlessly trampled upon the right and upheld the wrong wherever his influence extended. The enemy at first affected to sneer at the movement of his new adversary, but the young editor soon transformed the seeming sneer into shivering dismay. This was quickly followed by

\*The NEWS passed, after Dr. Cowling's death, under the editorial management of Prof. J. W. Holland.

defeat, and this in turn by ignominious flight. The resistance was obstinate, but Dr. Cowling made the campaign short and decisive. He "took the war," as he said, "into Africa and kept it there." He wrote on the field as he sat watching the discomfited fomenter of all this medical discord—fleeing when no one pursued—in the following humorous but generous terms: "If the enemy will surrender and get some responsible party to go on his bond for him, we will not only 'let him up,' but will divide our commissariat with him. We have not a bloodthirsty feeling in our bosom, and long for a return of peace."

Throughout this entire controversy, than which the annals of medical politics contain nothing, on one side more savage, acrimonious, and dogged, Dr. Cowling never lost his temper, and, as he truly said, "in the face of the rudest assertions and grossest personal abuse administered correction in the pleasantest possible manner." Among his last allusions to the controversy and its consequences, he wrote with a sense of genuine satisfaction, "We have at any rate made the atmosphere of Louisville more pleasant for professional men to breathe, and cast off the imputation that a great humbug flourished here with no one to combat it."

Happily for all engaged in the pursuit of medicine, as either teachers or practitioners, the aseptic condition of the atmosphere in this region, effected by the guns of the NEWS, continues to the present time. And while the keenest rivalry still exists among the schools, it may be fairly said to be completely shorn of that sinister spirit which destroyed the peace of the profession before Dr. Cowling and his journal appeared upon the field.

But the evil which this Bayard had driven out of Kentucky transferred itself about this time to another State. A medical college there imitated the iniquities which had existed here. Dr. Cowling at first remonstrated with its faculty in his usual gentle way; but no heed being paid to his soft words he turned the batteries of his ridicule full upon the institution, which, as it happened, was vulnerable beyond most of its rivals. Among other claims to public favor, it had boasted much of its unequalled hospital advantages, and dwelt upon the fact that its classes had access to the abundant clinical material furnished by the State Penitentiary. Cowling could not refrain from letting fly at so inviting a target, and there appeared in the NEWS what purported to be a clinical lecture at ———. He made the professor to say, after bringing a convict before the class, "... Our prognosis, gentlemen, in cases of grand larceny must necessarily be guarded. It depends greatly upon the amount the patient has taken before we see him. I think it would be safe, however, to put it down at from two to four years. Relapses are particularly bad, as they indicate a diathesis in this direction. In regard to treatment, there is no specific; but by exercising a proper restraint over the patient a second attack may be postponed for a time. Our chief concern is to prevent the patient from breaking out. Dietary and hygienic measures are all-important. In England sea-voyages to Australia have been prescribed with benefit. Short hair is desirable, that the brain may be kept cool, and loose-fitting clothing, that the body may be comfortable. We believe greatly too in rendering the patient as attractive as possible to himself; to which end the dull monotony of our modern fashions in dress is relieved by the alternate stripes of white and black, which you see the patient exhibits in his coat and trousers. A bath taken at

*fresco* at the pump on Saturday afternoons, and a vigorous scrubbing with yellow soap, does much to promote the action of the skin and to divert the mind. A pint of peanut coffee, sweetened with sorghum, three times a day, a modicum of bacon (sow-belly of the poets), baked beans, with dodgers *de* corn, form the chief diet in this complaint; and these, with moderate exercise, say about ten hours a day at the rock-pile, or breathing the invigorating atmosphere of the hemp-factories, make up our treatment. Our attentive clinical assistants, Messrs. Thrashem and Shootem, will take the case in charge and report progress." As a bit of irony, this lecture is as clever in its way as anything written by Charles Lamb. It went straight to the mark, and, as a result, the school was quickly driven to change front and abandon its erring ways.

And thus he who shaped the policy of the NEWS went about exposing frauds, shattering shams, and correcting such abuses in medicine as he felt were worthy of his notice, kindly if he could, forcibly if he must.

Dr. Cowling strove to be useful. Among his earliest editorials was one directed to the abolition of the time-honored university law which required candidates for the degree in medical colleges to present to the Dean a thesis upon some professional topic. "We are going," he says, "to take up the cudgel in behalf of students, for the thesis is, we think, an ardent humbug. It is no measure of merit; it is not the spontaneous offering of the Muse, but springs from the terror-stricken spirit. Far better the time it costs should be spent in the dissecting-room and at the quiz. These are passing opportunities." He could not lay down his pen without adding this bit of humor and truth: "Early professional life will give ample leisure for literary effort." He lived to see the law annulled.

He next endeavored to secure the passage of an act by the General Assembly of the State, whereby confidential communications between patient and physician should be placed upon the same footing as like secrets acquired by a lawyer in his professional intercourse with his client. "The necessity," he declares, "for reposing confidence in physicians is certainly as great as in the cases of lawyers and priests and ministers. Their relations with their patients are of the most personal and intimate nature. To them is intrusted necessarily a knowledge of the personal defects and infirmities and the troubles and secrets of their patients. The skeleton in the family closet comes naturally within their view. The knowledge which they thus acquire would often, if they were compelled to betray it to the world, make physicians a terror and a curse rather than a relief to those who trust them. Most people would prefer continued disease to exposure and disgrace." The obsolete, common-law rule, however, still cumbers the statute-books of the State, though the arguments of the NEWS will, it is to be hoped, lead to a change at no distant day.

He endeavored, and with success, to ameliorate the hardships and lessen the severities of convict life in Kentucky prisons, and urged that executions of criminals in public should no longer be permitted.

The last editorial he penned was in the chamber from which he went not out again, and but the day before his death. It was on the vexed question of reform in medical teaching, a question to which he had given much time and study. The article concluded with the following thought, than which, perhaps, no sounder has any where been expressed: "We have an abiding idea that the fault of American



teaching does not tie more in short terms than in faulty methods. . . . Upon the gradation of subjects, demonstrative teaching, and text-book studies depends the only basis of true reform." There are many who share this opinion, and believe that the path here indicated, and that path alone, will lead to those changes which all friends of humanity so ardently desire.

Time will not permit me to even hint at the numerous other subjects on which he publicly expressed himself in his own clear and kindly and often inimitable way. It must suffice here to say that almost every current topic of the day in which medicine had concern or in which her voice could be useful was presented in the pages of his journal.

"He wrote," says another, "of things abstract, abstruse, and technical in a style so brilliant that even lay minds were interested in the perusal of his articles. He illustrated things difficult and dark by their analogy to things clear and easy of apprehension, so that dullness could understand and remember them."\*

He loved children, and in return was beloved by them. Some of his pleasantest editorials are entitled "Pleas for the Little Ones."

"We beg our brethren," he writes, "to do what they can . . . to protect these little ones during July and August days from being smothered by the poms and vanities and misdirected kindnesses of the good mothers in this wicked world. Comfort them at both ends—take off their hair and take away their shoes, if not in public at least at home. It will improve the growth of their locks and the shape of their feet. Preach the abominations of piqué dresses and flannel bellybands and woolen jackets on the eve of the dogstar and while it rages, and the misery to childhood always of spoilsable clothes."

And how graphic a picture of children's sports is this: "The baby just able to toddle pitches its tent in the nursery, with a chair for a ridge-pole and mother's shawl for the canvas. The older urchin cooks his dirty dough by the fire built in the back yard and dreams of adventure."

He was fond of all manly exercises and outdoor sports, and when young indulged much in the latter. As his years and his work grew, however, he found himself less and less free to participate in them—a circumstance which he often lamented. He continued to be a great walker. At one time in his life when he fancied he was growing too corpulent he walked for a season regularly fifteen miles a day—a feat which can but be regarded as considerable in a climate where walking for any distance is well nigh out of the question for five months in the year, and but seldom indulged in for the remaining seven months. His contemplative mind naturally made of him a disciple of the gentle Isaac rather than a follower of hounds or of pointers. Every thing, however, relating to the field interested him, and often when a friend had returned from a day's shooting he would go to hear him tell of the doings of the dogs. He would sometimes say, "If I only had the excuse of poor health how often I would get out. But I have no excuse to recreate. Why, I am recreated with every sunrise. I have no apology for either shooting or fishing. I can work incessantly without fatigue. Health! why I have health to loan, health to sell, health to give away."

In an editorial headed "The Therapeutic Value of Field-sports" he expresses himself in the following

\*Rt. Rev. T. U. Dudley, D.D.

charming way. Addressing physicians he says, "The prescriptions, 'Go a-fishing,' or 'Hunt daily for a week or two,' are the most rational medicines one can take. . . . In every one there arises at times a desire to break away from civilization and go wild. . . . The desire is just as distinctive as love or hope or any other passion in the human breast; and he is the wisest doctor who recognizes the voice of nature, not only when disease is at hand, but in the warnings it gives of its approach. Talk about prophylactics and hygiene—a man may live longer and better with a week's camping on the Kankakee or Green River twice a year than by following all other directions that the sanitary wisdom of the State can devise. It is the invigorating atmosphere of the country, the rustle of the trees, the waving of the green fields, the babble of the waters. It is not the number of fish on his string or of the birds in his bag that measures the restoration of his wasted energies. A glorious nibble may stir the nerve-currents to the brachial plexus for a month to come, and a winged partridge excite hopes that may never die."

In his short and busy career he found time to prepare a number of public addresses, each of which was distinguished by his finer characteristics. The first of these, a valedictory address, was given in 1872 when he was adjunct to the chair of surgery. In this he inculcated a culture on the part of graduates outside of and beyond the shop. He declared that doctors had other duties to society than to give it physic, and urged them to the cultivation of their minds on other subjects—that there was no branch of knowledge which was not humanizing—"the pages of Thackeray," he said, "will teach you more of the human heart than ever you found in Gray or Dalton."

The same vehement love of knowledge which he exhibited when at college grew with him into manhood. Besides his familiarity with the higher mathematics, his acquaintance with the Latin and Greek tongues was much beyond that of the ordinary classical scholar. Indeed I hazard little in the assertion that next to his colleague, the able teacher of the Practice of Medicine in the University, the learned Dr. Bell, few physicians in America had a better knowledge of the dead languages than he. His was in truth a many-sided culture, and in this very diversity he acquired that power which comes from the discipline which such culture implies, no less than the breadth and freedom of thought which it begets.

In another address, delivered four years later, he selected as his topic "The Relations of Medicine to Modern Unbelief." The subject suggested itself to his mind as one on which the physician was specially qualified to speak. And in view of the so-called conflict between science and religion, in which, as he conceived, the latter had been robbed of some of her empire over the hearts and minds of men, he felt himself impelled to enter the lists, under the standard of that superior power, "the God who healeth our diseases and redeemeth our life from destruction." . . . "Surely," he said—and I commend his words to you, graduates—"no doctor can make a fling at religion on the score of faith. If you pin yourself down to receive nothing which can not be demonstrated to you 'through the cold, clear atmosphere of your reason,' you will not have a very active life in your profession. If you so receive the teachings of faith in matters pertaining to a temporal existence, why reject them when demanded for the one that is eternal? The Bible, gentlemen, offers you ground for an hypothesis that it comes from God at

least equal to those framed from the practice of your profession." "Evolution," he continues, "can give you no single idea of how life ebbs and flows. Evolution gives no comfort, and the correlation of the physical forces offers poor consolation when life is gone. The light and heat of science will not cause that eye to shine once more or the life-blood to course those veins; . . . and however omnipotent science may be, it can not dry the tears for him who is lost. The doctor has found no substitute for creation."

But compact and cogent as this plea for religion is, Dr. Cowling bore testimony in other and different ways to that faith which supplied the daily needs of his life and sustained him at its close.

Only the day before his death, while his minister and much-loved friend, Dr. Craik, was visiting him, the conversation turned on authors and the style of their writings. Dr. Cowling, still retaining his early impressions of Watson, asked a member of his family to read Watson's farewell address to his class, which being done, he turned to the venerable prelate and remarked, "Who could doubt the existence of God after hearing that?"

Before speaking of another address which he gave soon after the one from which I have just quoted, it is necessary, in order that you may understand its singular fate, to state that Dr. Cowling wrote with great rapidity, and in a hand which few persons, himself occasionally among the number, could decipher. While visiting England in 1870 he became much interested in the University of Oxford. On his return home he embodied his impressions of this ancient seat of learning in an address which he delivered before a religious guild in this city. The address was asked for by the press, and handed, the same evening on which it was spoken, to a friend, who gave it to the foreman of the *Courier-Journal* newspaper. In a few moments the foreman returned the manuscript, saying he was sorry, but it could not be put into type until it was rewritten; that he had distributed it among sixteen compositors, not one of whom had been able to decipher four lines consecutively, and finally all had abandoned it as an impossible job. The manuscript was returned to its author, who laid it away to rewrite, but when some days after he attempted to read it, he was as much at a loss to do so as had been the compositors. And thus was lost to the general public one of his best productions.

The last address he ever gave has been read and admired by medical men every where. It was made when a monument was erected, under the auspices of the Kentucky State Medical Society, over the grave of Dr. Ephraim McDowell, the father of ovariectomy.

The occasion was one of extraordinary interest. The audience by its very size was imposing, and was made still more so by the elements which entered into its composition. On the platform sat the governor and other officers of State; divines, jurists, and senators, among whom were orators of national fame; the president and other officers of the State Medical Society, the president elect of the American Medical Association; besides physicians of distinction who had traveled great distances to take part in the ceremonies. The body of the building was ablaze with the beauty of the State. The orator of the evening was Dr. Gross, at whose feet Dr. Cowling sat when a student of medicine, and whose former chair in the University of Louisville he had just come to occupy. The illustrious Pennsylvanian had spoken in fitting terms of the most renowned of all Kentuckians. Dr.

Cowling had been selected by the society to present to Dr. Gross the knocker which once hung on Dr. McDowell's door. He rose, and turning to his beloved master, said, "Dr. Gross, the Kentucky State Medical Society thanks you for the beautiful oration you have just delivered on Ephraim McDowell. Surely hereafter, when history shall recall his deeds and dwell upon his memory, it will relate how, when he was fifty years at rest, the greatest of living surgeons in America came upon a pilgrimage of a thousand miles to pronounce at his shrine the noble words you have spoken." . . . "I wish that the magician's wand were granted me to weave a fitting legend around this door-knocker, which comes from McDowell to you, Dr. Gross. There is much in the emblem. No one knows better than you how good and how great was the man of whom it speaks. It will tell of many a summons on mercy's mission which did not sound in vain. Ofttimes has it roused to action one whose deeds have filled the world with his fame. A sentinel, it stood at the doorway of a happy and an honorable home, whose master, as he had bravely answered its signals to duty here below, so when the greater summons came, as trustfully answered that, and laid down a stainless life. And raising his tall form he added this feeling and beautiful tribute to Dr. Gross: "It belongs by right to you, Dr. Gross. This household genius passes most fittingly from the dearest of Kentucky's dead surgeons to the most beloved of her living sons in medicine. She will ever claim you as her son, Dr. Gross, and will look with jealous eyes upon those who would wean you from her affections. And as this emblem which is now given to you hangs no longer upon a Kentucky doorway, by this token you shall know that all Kentucky doorways are open at your approach. By the relief your skill has wrought; by the griefs your great heart has healed; by the sunshine you have thrown across her thresholds; by the honor your fame has brought her; by the fountains of your wisdom at which your loving children within her borders have drunk, the people of Kentucky shall ever open to you their hearts and homes."

The effect of these words, uttered in the deep, sonorous voice of the speaker, was thrilling. It was some moments before the eminent surgeon to whom they were addressed was able to rise and reply.

Dr. Cowling wrote much on matters connected with the profession, but his writings on purely scientific subjects were not abundant.

How few genuinely great men in medicine write as much as we would have them; how many little men write more than we wish. I append a list of his more important contributions to surgery, some of which hinted at new departures, all of which it may be truthfully said were of practical value. The only sustained scientific work which he brought out was a little volume entitled "Aphorisms in Fractures" which went to press but a few months before his death. He lived, however, to see it accepted by the profession throughout America as a production of genuine merit, containing some novel points, and put in the fewest and plainest and simplest words.

Besides the positions he occupied in the University Dr. Cowling filled the office of President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the oldest and largest medical society in this city. He was also Surgeon of the Short Line Railway.

In 1867 he married Mary, daughter of Col. Sam. B. Churchill, of this city, who with three daughters survive him. Shortly after this union he made a sec-

ond trip to Europe, applying himself to the study of surgery.

On Saturday, April 2, 1881, at noon, Dr. Cowling died at his residence of rheumatism transferred to his heart. He had been ill but a short time, and his physicians were not apprehensive of the result until a few moments before the end came. At the morning visit made on the day of his death, he was found suffering with extreme precordial distress, which seeming to abate under the remedies quickly prescribed, the medical attendant remarked, "Cowling, you are rallying." "No," he gasped, "It is the heart, and I shall die."

When he was laid in his grave he was followed by a multitude of mourners.

To our weak eyes it would seem that Dr. Cowling's purposes were broken off just as he had fairly awakened to the strength that was in him; when on the broad foundations he had laid by dint of long and patient study he had erected but the scaffolding of the future superstructure, the blocks of which, as we have seen, were so sound and so shapely.

In person, Dr. Cowling was commanding. He was tall deep-chested, broad-shouldered, stout-limbed. His head was large, his face singularly benignant; his manner courteous, considerate, persuasive; his laugh cheery, mirth-provoking; his voice deep, manly; he led frankness, cheerfulness, and good will to dwell in his heart, and made duty its mistress. His mind was singularly judicial.

As a surgeon his bearing was sympathetic, his insight quick, his hand gentle, steady, and strong. A man of the times, he retained the dew of his youth. A man of the world, he preserved a simplicity and gentleness like to that of Elia. To humor, which rippled on the current of his life, warming and gladdening as sunshine all who came within its genial light, he added a wit which often dazzled but never stung; to truthfulness he added trust in others; to deep humility he added high courage; to that not uncommon charity which bid his servant during the bitter cold weather "leave the coal-house door unlocked, for a man must be poor and very miserable before he will steal a lump of coal," he added that rarer charity which thought no evil. He added to knowledge wisdom. He was a Christian.

With a few more words I shall conclude the mournful task allotted to me.

What I have had nearest my heart has been to present the dead surgeon as he was—in the simple, ingenuous way he would have chosen. For the courtesy due such as he is truth. Hence I have but transferred to another canvas that figure which, all unconsciously, he drew of himself while living, using no other colors than those he mixed with his own hand and left on his palette.

Gentlemen of the graduating class, I can find no more suitable language in which to close these remarks, and certainly none which more pointedly conveys the behests of your *Alma Mater* to all her children, or better expresses the responsibilities of the mission on which you now enter, or which should sink more deeply into your hearts, than the ringing words of him to whose teachings you listened with so much pleasure but a twelvemonth ago: "Good cheer to the guild all round. Health and happiness to high and low, to rich and poor, to old and young." . . . "What a stewardship has been intrusted to us! what powers for good or evil! And remembering we are but men, we may not uselessly beat our breasts at the remembrance of the terrible shortcomings of

which each must feel himself guilty in the past, but in a reliance upon that better nature which every man feels planted within him, bend ourselves to lead a better future. With deeper faith in our art, studying to our best powers its resources, with constant remembrance of the sacred trust imposed upon us, and, above all, with hearts full open to the lesson of charity which, more than all men, we should feel, then may we confidently meet the end."<sup>\*</sup>

## ADDRESS IN MEMORIAM OF PROFESSOR JNO. E. CROWE.

BY E. R. PALMER, M.D.†

*Professor of Physiology and Physical Diagnosis, University of Louisville.*

*Ladies and Gentlemen, and Gentlemen of the Medical Class:*

In striking contrast with the gladsome spirit that pervades this hour is the duty that has been assigned to me of paying tribute to the memory of one whom we all knew and loved, and who but a year ago was with us and of us, with unstinted and heartfelt applause greeting your immediate predecessors as they stood where you now are and received the rite that made them doctors. Little did any of us imagine at that time that of the University medical faculty who sat upon this stage the two on whom nature seemed to have most lavishly bestowed the priceless gift of rugged health should both ere the dawn of another commencement-day be laid away forever to moulder with the sacred dead in the dismal tomb. How forcibly such changes remind us that

"We are such stuff  
As dreams are made of, and our little life  
Is rounded with a sleep."

My eloquent colleague, Professor D. W. Yandell, will shortly speak to you of the genius and many virtues of Professor Cowling, and no pen is better fitted than his to chronicle that short but brilliant life. In essaying to address you in memory of Professor Crowe, while I doubt my ability to do my subject the full justice it so well deserves, I feel assured that if a life-long friendship, ripening and strengthening as our association in the University extended, is all that is needed, my pen will not fail me in the office I have undertaken. When the daily papers on the morning of the 28th September announced the unexpected news of the sudden death of Professor Crowe, it may truthfully be said that grief and mourning entered every household, so universally was he known and beloved. All day long as the sad news spread over the city a constant tide of sorrowing humanity sought the chamber of death to pay homage to his memory. Those whom his skill had comforted and healed; those whom his nobility of character had bound; and those who remembered the many deeds of kindness and charity that had had birth in his warm heart, gathered together with uncovered heads and moistened eyes in silent sorrow around his coffin.

John E. Crowe was born in Louisville, of Irish parentage, on the 4th of June, 1829. He received a thorough English and classical education in St.

<sup>\*</sup> New Year's editorial in *Medical News*, January, 1878.

† Delivered before the graduating class of the Medical Department of University of Louisville, February 28, 1882.

Ignatius Institute of this city, and St. Mary's College in the interior of the State. After graduating at St. Mary's he was for several years engaged in its halls in the capacity of tutor. In 1852 he returned to Louisville and became a teacher in one of the public schools of this city. In 1855 he entered upon the study of medicine and became a matriculate of the University where he was graduated in the spring of 1857. His success in his chosen profession became early assured, and the breaking out of the civil war found him a prosperous and honored member of the Louisville profession. In 1862 when the nearness of the western seat of war made Louisville a great hospital center, Dr. Crowe was selected by the Surgeon-general to take charge of a large hospital for sick and wounded soldiers, a position which he filled until the close of the war with such eminent satisfaction as to gain for him the highest encomiums of his superiors. He was several times chosen by the people in the center of the city to represent them in the general council, and as an alderman he enjoyed the fullest confidence of both his fellow-officials and the public generally, serving as chairman of several important committees intrusted with the most vital of civic interest.

During the summer of 1868 the chair of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women in the University was made vacant by the resignation of Professor Henry Miller. It was a trying time for the Medical Department. Several members of the faculty had resigned and the future of the college depended much upon the manner of men selected to occupy the vacant chairs. Material was abundant. The existence for years of two successful medical schools in Louisville had had the effect of fostering in the breasts of many an aspiring doctor an ambition to become a teacher. Whatever may have been the feeling in the innermost heart of Dr. Crowe his innate modesty had prevented his ever manifesting such a desire. The place sought him and was accepted by him with much misgiving and doubting. We entered the faculty at the same time, and from the opening of the preliminary term in the following September until his death our relationship was marked by a warm and abiding friendship that during all that time was never once in the slightest degree marred. We were thrown much together. We occupied the same private room and as my hour followed his upon the college roster we met almost daily during the session. You may hardly realize how much I have missed him during the term just ended. The change in the order of lectures which his death necessitated left me alone, and day after day as I awaited in solitude your assembling in the lower lecture-room have I mourned in sadness the absence of my whole-souled colleague. Professor Crowe was a man to win the love and esteem of his fellow-men. He had a heart full of warm impulses, ever ready to rejoice with one when fortune smiled and to sympathize when reverses befell. It is with pleasure that I remember our many short chats in that retiring-room and the full confidence that he always bestowed upon me. He was not pleased at first with the result of his new venture and all through the first year of his professorship declared himself a failure. His lectures at that time were wholly written and many a night, wearied after a day of arduous practice, did he labor until early dawn in their preparation. On one occasion, when he was bemoaning the labori-

ous duty of lecture writing, I urged him to throw aside his set sentences, to shake off the hampering influences of his voluminous manuscripts, and backed by his excellent mastery of English, to extemporize from his extended knowledge and experience. My colleagues one and all urged him to the same step, but still bound by that lack of self-confidence which arose from his characteristic modesty, he hesitated and held back, dreading the innovation and doubting his power to succeed, even as a novice in the art of swimming dreads the first plunge into deep water.

A few sessions saw a marked change and from the position of a possible failure he had advanced to the front rank of success. Many a day have I stood by the closed doors behind and listened to his deep, resonant voice, never faltering for a word with which to impart a thought, as unguided even by notes he unfolded to his attentive hearers the mysteries of his art.

Few members of the faculty have been more beloved by the students than he. I have often marked with pleasure the evidences of their confidence and esteem which cropped out in a hundred ways as they, plying eager questions, gathered about him after the close of his hour. From being a dreaded task, lecturing with him changed to an unalloyed pleasure. He ever had the interests of the University close at heart and never wearied of discussing its future or striving to encompass its still greater success. He enjoyed the love and confidence of each of his colleagues and to one and all of them his death came as a sad and heavy blow. On the evening of the 15th of last September I was telephoned for in haste to meet him at the bedside of a lady suffering from accidental metallic poisoning. I was impressed at that consultation with his gentleness and patience and by the utmost confidence with which the anxious friends of the sufferer hung upon his utterances. As I left the house I waited at the gate until he came out. He stood by my buggy a few moments and talked on his favorite theme, the University; and as we separated he said cheerily, "Well, good night; we'll meet tomorrow." I never saw him again. The next morning found me ushered into what proved to be a long and well-nigh fatal sickness. One day in October, the third of my convalescence, I turned to Professor Bodine, who stood by my bedside, and said, "It is strange that Crowe does not come to see me. I have always been so fond of him." "You must not blame Crowe," replied he. "He would come if he could, but he can not." Little did I dream, as I lay there—little had I dreamt while battling in the delirium of disease, that a quicker and less erring shaft had brought low the form I had so short a time before left in such robust health. At the opening of the preliminary term in last September he remarked to the dean of the faculty that on no previous fall for years had he felt so well or so much like work. The few lectures he gave during that month seemed to bear out the truth of his assertion. Up to the day of his death, which occurred suddenly, there was no evidence of the fate that was impending. On that day, the 27th of September, he suffered somewhat from what he thought to be a return of an old and apparently simple throat trouble, but as the day advanced the malady increased alarmingly. Early in the evening he sought the office of a professional friend for relief. Failing to find him in, he returned home,



where he remained until about 10 o'clock, at which time he felt that unless speedily relieved he must die. He again started forth alone in quest of medical assistance, but barely reached his destination in time to sink into a chair and die. Several of his colleagues and intimate friends, summoned by telephone, hastened to his side only to find the friend who but a few hours before had left them in apparent health, fast growing cold in the relentless embrace of death. He died as he had lived, alone.

Professor Crowe married a most estimable lady. His friends who rejoiced with him in the manifest joy of his wedded life were soon called upon to mourn with him his inestimable loss in her death, a burden which he bore with Christian fortitude, returning uncomplainingly to the dreariness of single life, now a thousandfold more dreary because of his bereavement. Doctor Crowe was a devout Catholic, and I am told that during even the busiest period of his life he always found time to zealously discharge his religious duties. I can not better close this brief and imperfect sketch than by referring to a trait in his character that is well illustrated by an incident that occurred in my office a few days ago: A patient, a plain German woman for whom I had just prescribed, stood looking at the faculty group of photographs hanging on the wall, pointing to his picture she said, "O, Doctor, is it not too bad that he is dead?" Yes, said I, I was just writing a speech about him when you came in. Turning quickly around she said in great earnestness, "Make it a good one, Doctor, he was such a good man." What better eulogium could be spoken of any one? The life of the true physician, more than that in almost any other calling, is a life of charity, and preëminently was he noted for that noble trait. Public and private charities, the humble dwelling of the poor, the dark and noisome by-ways of poverty, all knew him well, and no cry for help from such as these ever found him other than ready and willing to spend and be spent in their behalf.

The story of his life is engraved upon a priceless tablet enshrined in the hearts of the people, more precious than burnished gold, more enduring than spotless marble. Let his memory be to you, as it should be to all of us who follow the divine art of healing, an unfailing incentive to that goodness of heart and charity of purpose, that shall make the lot of suffering an easier burden to be born by those who look to us for help.

## Miscellany.

### MEDICAL COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT.

#### UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE.

The Commencement exercises of the Medical Department of this institution were held in Macauley's Theater, on Tuesday, February 28, 1882, at 2:30 o'clock P.M., with the following

#### PROGRAMME.

Overture, "Tragedy and Comedy," Becker.  
March, "Juanita," Suppe.

Prayer by Right Rev. T. U. Dudley, D.D.  
Presentation of candidates by the Dean, and the conferring of diplomas by the Hon. Isaac Caldwell, President of the Board of Trustees.

Selection, "Patience," Sullivan.

Announcement and award of prizes by the President.

Galop, "Tarif," Schacht.

Class Valedictory, by William C. Forster, of Alabama.

Waltz, "My Dream," Waldeufel.

Address in Memoriam of Prof. Crowe, by Prof. E. R. Palmer.

"Traumerei," Schuman.

Faculty Valedictory, by Prof. D. W. Yandell.

Benediction.

"Home, Sweet Home."

#### LIST OF GRADUATES.

Adams, J. G., Tex.	Martin, G. W., Texas.
Alexander, C. M., Ky.	Morgan, A. C., Ky.
Allan, J. G., Ky.	Moore, R. L., Ky.
B'Shers, H. L., Ark.	Murphy, J. R., R. I.
Breen, Cornelius, Ireland.	Martin, H. C., Kas.
Brown, J. M., Pa.	Neilson, J. T., Tenn.
Berry, J. S., Tex.	Owens, J. L., Ky.
Bennett, E. C., Ill.	O'Barr, J. T., Texas.
Benton, Percy, Ky.	Oberdorfer, Nathan, Ky.
Bennett, G. W., Ark.	Oldham, G. P., Ky.
Britt, Michael, Miss.	Pratt, R. D., Ky.
Bradford, W. A., Tenn.	Pinner, J. H., Ky.
Cottingham, Leven, Ky.	Pittman, E. T., Colorado.
Chapman, A. W., Mo.	Quessenberry, J. L., Ky.
Cox, C. H., Ky.	Ray, J. M., Ky.
Collins, D. W., Col.	Rice, M. S., Ind.
Duncan, J. F., Ky.	Robinson, J. M., Ky.
Davis, W. H., Ind.	Roberts, S. A., Ind.
Dodson, E. F., Tenn.	Ryan, W. E., Ind.
Dougan, W. M., Ind. Ter.	Ruddick, Lindley, Ind.
Dunlavy, J. C., M.D., Ia.	Smith, S. W., Ind.
Ellis, R. H., Mo.	Shands, N. B., Texas.
Freed, J. R., Ind.	Stilson, Hamilton, Ind.
Florence, J. B., Tex.	Stewart, A. S., Ala.
Freed, M. A., Ind.	Scruggs, M. F., Miss.
Forster, W. C., Ala.	Simpson, J. B., Ark.
Giles, J. H., Miss.	Simpson, A. R., S. C.
Grimes, J. A., Ky.	Simrall, H. F., jr, Miss.
Graves, W. T., Ky.	Sheldon, T. J., Mo.
Gudgell, F. P., Ky.	Selman, J. L., Ga.
Hays, D. W., Ill.	Stroud, L. M., Texas.
Harrison, O. A., Miss.	Sigler, R. R., Ind.
Haswell, Ernest, Ky.	Strain, W. T., Texas.
Hodges, R. H., Ark.	Stovall, A. J., Texas.
Hall, C. T., Ind.	Turner, S. T., Texas.
Harper, R. W., Ky.	Thompson, J. S., Ark.
Johnson, A. H., Ind.	Taylor, B. J., Texas.
Kuyrkendall, L. L., Tex.	Vaught, H. M., Ill.
Kelleam, J. M., Ark.	Walton, J. H., Ark.
King, J. R., Ky.	Wells, F. M., Ind.
Kinabrew, W. E., Miss.	Walden, W. J., Ky.
Kampfmüller, E., Ky.	Wardell, Morris, Ill.
Lancaster, H. M., Ky.	Watlington, O. F., Tenn.
Lankford, J. S., Tex.	Woodard, F. M., Ky.
Ladd, C. W., Ind.	Whitlow, T. W., Ark.
Léger, L. J., Miss.	Willie, A. L., Texas.
Leathers, C. A., Ky.	Wyatt, C. A., Ky.
Lindsey, J. E., Texas.	Woosley, C. B., Ky.

#### AWARDS OF HONORS AND PRIZES.

The President announced the awards made by the Faculty as follows:

James Morrison Ray, M.D., of Kentucky.  
 Andrew W. Chapman, M.D., of Missouri.  
 Francis M. Wells, M.D., of Indiana.  
 Richard H. Ellis, M.D., of Missouri.  
 John T. O'Barr, M.D., of Texas. •  
 Stephen T. Turner, M.D., of Texas.  
 Hamilton Stillson, M.D., of Indiana.  
 Chas. W. Ladd, M.D., of Indiana.  
 John S. Lankford, M.D., of Texas.  
 Cornelius Breen, M.D., of Ireland.

Each of the above-named gentlemen received a certificate of honor.

The Yandell gold medal, named in honor of the late Dr. L. P. Yandell, sr., was awarded, for the best class-standing, to J. M. Ray, M.D., of Kentucky. The second gold medal for second place in class-standing was awarded to A. W. Chapman, M.D., of Missouri, and the third to F. M. Wells, M.D., of Indiana.

#### THE UNDERGRADUATES' CONTEST.

John Q. Taylor, of Kentucky, was awarded the first prize, a case of instruments offered by Arthur Peter & Co.

Travis Carroll, of Kentucky, was awarded the second prize, a copy of Erichsen's Surgery, offered by Jno. P. Morton & Co.

Dulaney L. Washburne, of Kentucky, was awarded the third prize, a case of instruments, offered by Simon N. Jones.

Some time before the opening exercises the large audience-room was filled by the friends of the college and students.

The occasion was an unusually solemn one, in view of the fact that two honored members of the faculty had died since the last similar gathering.

The eloquent and able addresses (two of which we publish in full in this issue) were listened to with rapt attention, and made a profound impression upon the hearers.

There was a profusion of flowers, abundant congratulations, and a mutual exchange of expressions of goodwill.

We bid the new-made doctors Godspeed.

**INSANITY AS A CAUSE FOR DIVORCE.**—In the Divorce Court on Friday, December 16th a very important case was settled in reference to insanity. The case was *Hunter v. Edney*. In this case a woman was married, but refused on the wedding night to allow the marriage to be consummated. The husband sent for the mother of the woman, who took her home after she had been seen by Dr. Miskin, a general practitioner in the neighborhood. Dr. Miskin was of the opinion that then she was insane. Some few

weeks later Dr. Savage of Bethlehem saw the case, and decided that the woman was suffering from melancholia, and not fit to enter into a contract, and that in his opinion she had so suffered for some time. The whole case took but a short part of one day, and there was really no opposition, for, although the wife was in court, and elected to go into the witness-box, she did not deny any of the statements made, but said that she had no knowledge of some of the things which were proved to have taken place during the time soon following her wedding. Thus she did not remember, so she said, making an attempt to strangle herself. The judge, Sir J. Hannen, summed up clearly and fairly, and pointed out that the woman did not appear capable of understanding actions free from the influences of delusions, and was therefore incapable of entering into a contract like that of marriage, and he decreed the marriage null. This is the first case of the kind which has been decided, and is not by any means a solitary one, so far as the insanity and marriage are concerned. During the past year several cases have, we believe, been in Bethlehem in which marriage was not consummated in consequence of insanity. In one a man heard a voice telling him he must not touch his wife, and the same patient later heard a voice telling him not to eat. The case decided is a first one, and is incomplete. What line would have been followed if the marriage had been consummated, and still more, if a child had been begotten? The inability to contract would have been the same, but we fear there might have been greater difficulty to persuade a jury—if a jury had been deciding—that a divorce was justifiable. In murder cases the feeling of many is moved against taking human life, but the life-long misery caused by an unjust marriage in which one of the contracting parties was insane is a suffering of the innocent which is unhappily overlooked. Such cases make it all-important that something should be done, and every step, such as the one reached in the above decision, carefully watched.—*London Lancet*.

**WARNING TO DUEL SURGEONS.**—Mr. Justice Cave, in a recent case, gave it as his opinion that a surgeon who attended a duel to prevent a man from dying was to be held equally guilty with the person who fired the shot, because by his mere presence he forwarded the duel.—*Medical Press and Circular*.

#### THE ACTION OF PILOCARPIN ON THE HAIR.

A remarkable occurrence, to which we referred on August 13th last, has been reported by Prentiss in the Philadelphia Medical Times. In a case of pyelo nephritis with prolonged anuria, in a woman of twenty-five years of age, pilocarpin was injected subcutaneously. Twelve days after the commencement of the treatment the light blonde hair of the patient began to assume a darker color, which rapidly increased. On the twenty-sixth day it was dark brown, and four months later coal-black, although the pilocarpin was discontinued at the end of seven weeks. No change in the structure of the hair could be discovered under the microscope, except that the hairs had become thicker and contained pigment. On other parts of the body the hair had also become darker, although to a less degree than on the head. In connection with this singular effect a case recorded by M. André on the efficacy of pilocarpin in alopecia may be mentioned. A woman, aged thirty-three, had lost the whole of her hair; head, eyebrows, eyelids, axillæ, and pubes were bare. After trying various remedies in vain a centigram of hydrochlorate of pilocarpin was injected beneath the scalp, and increased without inconvenience to 2.5 centigrams. Diaphoresis was so abundant that we are told that having to walk home two leagues after each injection her boots were flooded with sweat. In three weeks a growth of hair was apparent, and after ten weekly injections the hair on the head was two centimeters long, and gradually appearing elsewhere.—*London Lancet*.

#### A RARE OCCURRENCE IN MIDWIFERY.—

W. H. Borham writes to the London Lancet: Last week I delivered a young married woman of her first child (a male), at the full term of utero gestation, with the fetal membranes unruptured. This is the only one after attending twelve hundred primiparæ, and the fourth, after an experience of fifty-six hundred cases of midwifery, where the child has been born with "a caul over its head." The rarity of this occurrence is enhanced by the present obstetricians being too fond of interfering with art, and have trusted too little to nature; and through this fashionable *modus operandi* of the modern accoucheur for expeditious reasons the sailor who pins his faith to the superstitious notions attributed to the "caul" will soon find it a very scarce commodity. Females suffering from perineal lacerations are far more frequent nowadays than of old.

#### Selections.

**Hip-deformity in Coxalgia.**—At a recent meeting of the Société de Chirurgie M. Verneuil observed that he had treated a young girl, aged nine years, for coxalgia, by complete immobilization of the joint, for a period of three years and a half. She was cured without the slightest deformity remaining. About one year later he saw the young girl, and found very pronounced deformity, with apparent shortening, elevation of the pelvis, but without any trace of sensibility or of inflammation about the joint. Remembering the cases cited by Valtat in his thesis, where permanent progressive flexure at the knee, through paralysis of the triceps, without arthritis, ensued after prolonged immobilization of the joint, M. Verneuil sought if such could happen for hip-joint. And in effect he found a complete paralysis of the gluteal muscles in this young girl. The deformity was due to the tonic contracture of the psoas, the adductors and the sartorius, with an elevation of the pelvis difficult of explanation.

This case demonstrates, like many others at the knee and hip, that deformity may supervene late in the disease, without inflammatory symptoms, solely on account of the paralysis of certain groups of muscles and the tonic contraction of their antagonists.

M. Verneuil has sometimes in such cases obtained definitive cure by electricity, and he considers that it is to the contraction or paralysis of certain groups of muscles that the deformities (*attitudes vicieuses*) at the hip-joint are due in coxalgia. The abduction, external rotation, and apparent lengthening of the limb observed at the *début* of coxalgia are the result of the contraction of the iliacus and the gluteal muscles; the external rotation, abduction, and shortening through elevation (*ascension*) of the pelvis, which supervene later, are due to the paralysis of these same muscles. The contiguity of these muscles to an inflamed joint explains the contraction at the commencement of the disease; later on they become atrophied, and we have the deformity of the second period.—*Med. Press and Circular*.

**Smallpox and Vaccination.**—M. Greenwood reports some interesting cases, which occurred in a recent epidemic of smallpox, and which illustrate very forcibly the protective effect of vaccination.

1. A woman suffering from smallpox suckled her child throughout nearly the whole period of the disease. The later, vaccinated successfully a month before, never showed any symptoms.

2. Smallpox occurred in a German family and the oldest of four children eventually succumbed to it. He was the only one in the family unvaccinated, and was nursed for nearly a week at home among the other three, all of whom escaped. The father believed in vaccination, but living in the United States at the time when this child was born, and vaccination being non-compulsory, he had neglected to have it done.

3. Smallpox broke out in a family of three children, none vaccinated. On the removal of the oldest, aged seven, to the hospital, the other two were vaccinated, though the mother said that the second child, aged five, was not feeling very well at the time. The vaccination was successful in both cases; but in that child, as the vaccinal pustules were beginning to die away, just ten days after vaccination, a slight but distinct variolous eruption broke out over the body.

The unvaccinated child died of the disease; the other scarcely had any constitutional symptoms at all, the vaccine, owing to its shorter period of incubation and action, having anticipated the action of the variolous poison which was already in the system.—*British Med. Journal*.

#### Albuminuria in apparently Healthy Persons.

In some of investigations on the risks of life assurance made by the medical officer of the United States Life Insurance Company, New York, and published by them in a collected form, there is some very interesting information regarding albuminuria in healthy persons. They find that albuminuria occurs in eleven per cent of the persons presenting themselves for insurance. In them it was attended with no discomfort or unpleasant symptom, and there was no discoverable cause for its existence. Sometimes albumen was not found in the morning urine, although it appeared in a later part of the day. Notwithstanding that a number of these cases have been under observation for some years, the exact significance of them has not yet been ascertained; but the medical officer is of opinion that, as four of the number have died, and the general appearance of those who have been under observation for more than one year is gradually deteriorating, the albuminuria must be regarded as of great significance. In some cases, however, it may be of slight importance, and further research is required to discriminate between them.—*Practitioner*.

#### Alcohol in the Diseases of Children.—M.

Jules Simon believes that alcohol is of the utmost service as a remedial agent in the diseases of the respiratory tract occurring in young children. He trusts to alcohol alone in capillary bronchitis, bronchopneumonia, and pneumonia, although at the same time he repeatedly blisters and often gives an emetic at the end of the disease. The alcohol is given in the form of fifteen to thirty grams of brandy, or thirty to forty grams of Malaga wine at each dose. The results obtained from its use are diminution of the temperature, decreased frequency of the respiration and pulse, calming of the delirium and sweating. Alcohol is also of much use in the chronic diseases of the respiratory tract—e. g. chronic bronchitis and chronic phthisis—since it acts by temporarily stimulating the mucous membrane of the air-passages and the lungs. In emphysema and asthma alcohol is probably of equal service, but it gives the best results when it is employed as an adjunct to treatment by iodide of potassium, sulphurous waters, and preparations of arsenic.—*Le Progrès Médical*.

#### On the Symptoms and Cure of Croup.—Prof.

Mackenzie draws attention to the fact that in croup the exudation of fibrin very frequently commences on the surface of the tonsils, spreading thence along the arches of the palate, and coats the posterior surface of the velum palati, sometimes surrounding and enclosing the uvula, until at last it descends and covers the internal surface of the pharynx and esophagus, of the larynx and trachea. Acting upon this observation Prof. Mackenzie finds that the application of nitrate of silver is completely successful in removing the fibrinous crust which covers the tonsils, velum, and uvula. He attributes the rapid alleviation and ultimate removal of all the other symptoms to this remedy, even in cases in which, from the severity and peculiar signs of the complaint, there was no doubt

but that fibrin had already exuded from the lining membrane of the larynx and trachea. The solution employed by the author is twenty grains of nitrate of silver in an ounce of distilled water. This solution is freely applied once or twice a day, according to the severity of the symptoms, by means of a large camel's-hair brush to the whole lining membrane of the fauces. The surface of the tonsils, or wherever else the fibrinous crust is actually in view, must of course be particularly attended to, and the pencil may be unhesitatingly pushed downward to the lower part of the pharynx.—*Glasgow Med. Journal*.

#### Iodoform in the Treatment of Diseases of the Skin.—Mr. Frazer has obtained very favorable

results from the use of iodoform in various diseases of the skin. It may be readily employed in the form of an ointment of any required strength, mixed with either lard or vaseline. The strength of the ointment made use of has ranged usually ten to thirty grain of iodoform to the ounce of cerate, but double this quantity can be applied. It has proved a most useful remedy in healing local eczematous eruptions occurring in strumous children and young people, as well as in cases of impetigo. Mr. Frazer also directs attention to the properties it possesses in curing porrigo decalvans. The best results he has as yet attained have followed the application of vesicating collodion over the affected spot and for a short distance around it. Previous to this it is well to epilate all diseased hairs over the spot, and when the blister is healing the ointment of iodoform should be applied night and morning, or oftener; by this treatment the hair soon reappears in a healthy condition.—*British Med. Journal*.

#### Iodoform in Surgery.—Privat-docent Mikulicz

terminates a paper upon the most recent employment of iodoform in Billroth's clinic with the statement that all the trials made with this substance justify the following conclusions: 1. Iodoform is, for all conditions in which the direct application of an antiseptic is indicated, an excellent means, deserving preference to all other substances hitherto used for this purpose. 2. The iodoform dressing may be used as a substitute for the carbolyzed gauze dressing of Lister, and is preferable to this on account of its simplicity and certainty. 3. The iodoform treatment admits of the antiseptic treatment of a wound, even under conditions that hitherto did not allow of a powerful antiseptics being pursued. 4. In wounds and ulcers already septic infected, iodoform, as a rule, operates more quickly and certainly than other antiseptics, while it does not irritate the tissues. 5. Iodoform acts in a specific manner on syphilitic, tubercular, scrofulous, and lupous infiltrations.—*Berlin Klin. Woch.*

#### Atropin in Menorrhagia and Hemoptysis.—

Dr. Tacke considers atropin a much more certain remedy in menorrhagia and hemoptysis than ergot. He was led to apply it in these conditions by injecting it subcutaneously in a woman suffering from eczema, and who had at the same time a profuse menstrual flow. He injected  $\frac{1}{10}$  of a grain twice daily for two days. The eczema was greatly benefited, and the menstrual flow was much reduced. He recommends a solution of sulphate of atropin one to one thousand of water; five minims to be injected two or three times a day subcutaneously.—*Berlin. Wochen.; Practitioner*.







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(*Eugenia Cheken, Myrtus Chekan.*) This remedy, a native of Chili, is very popular in that country, where it is employed as an *inhalation* in diphtheria, laryngitis, bronchitis, bronchorrhea, etc.; as an *injection* in gonorrhea, leucorrhea, cystitis, etc.; and *internally* as an aid to digestion, to allay cough, to facilitate expectoration, and to stimulate the kidneys. It is also an astringent and is said to be of great value in hemoptysis.

Cheken (known also as Chekan and Chequen) was introduced to the profession of England through a report of results following its use in chronic bronchitis or winter cough by Wm. Murrell, M.D., M.R.C.P., Assistant Physician to the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, and Lecturer on Practical Physiology at the Westminster Hospital. Dr. Murrell's report is very favorable and he has supplemented it by private advices to us expressing great satisfaction with the drug in the affections in which he has employed it. He regards it as one of the most valuable introductions of late years and pronounces it a drug of very superior properties in the treatment of **chronic bronchitis**, acting in this affection both as an anodyne and exerting a favorable influence over the organic changes in the mucous membrane. It is certainly a remedy which merits a thorough trial at the hands of the profession of this country.

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("MOUNTAIN SAGE.") *Artemisia Frigida*. Fluid extract of the herb. Dose, one to two fluid drams. **Diaphoretic and diuretic.**

The success which has attended the administration of this drug in "Mountain fever" has suggested its employment in all febrile conditions attended with suppression of the secretions of the skin and kidneys. Its action in fever seems to be two-fold, acting directly on the nervous center, thus inducing a direct lowering of the temperature, and facilitating the radiation of the heat through diaphoresis which it stimulates. Under its use the kidneys are also aroused to activity, and the solid constituents of the urine proportionately increased. Therapeutic tests have corroborated the opinion formed of it on theoretical grounds.

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(ALLIGATOR PEAR.) Fluid extract of the seeds. Dose 30 to 60 minims. This remedy is now for the first time presented to the profession of this country. It is introduced on the recommendation of Dr. Henry Froehling, of Baltimore, Maryland, who while acting in the capacity of botanist and scientist to an exploring expedition in Southern Mexico, became familiar with the drug, both from reports of the natives and personal experience, as a remedy in **intercostal neuralgia**. The following extract from Dr. Froehling's report will give some conception of the nature of this remedy:

"A common experience among physicians is that some cases of intercostal neuralgia are very troublesome and obstinate, resisting almost every kind of treatment; particularly is this the case in malarial districts. In such cases I would recommend the fluid extract of Persea seed. In my own person and in every case in which I have employed it I have been highly gratified with the result. Those of my medical friends to whom I have given samples of the preparation warmly indorse my opinion of it as above, and I can not but believe that further trial of it will cause it to be regarded as a valuable addition to our list of medicines."

Dr. Froehling also mentions the fact that Persea has been employed with benefit in the expulsion of tapeworm.

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